

What is claimed is:

1. (original) A drilling tool (1), especially for percussion drilling, which comprises a cutting element (3) that is configured as a plate (3) or head and that has at least one cutting edge (11) defined by a cutting face (6) and a free face (10),  
wherein  
the cutting edge (11) is associated with a first free face section (10a) which lies in a cutting plane (CP), is cut at a right angle to the cutting edge (11) and is limited by a convex bulge (13) or a convex polygon outline (15), and wherein the vertical height (H) of a rib (14) defined by the first free face section (10a) and an associated first cutting face section (6a) ranges from 0.1 mm to 1.0 mm.
2. (original) The drilling tool as recited in Claim 1,  
wherein  
the vertical height (H) of the rib (14) ranges from 0.1 mm to 0.5 mm in particular.
3. (currently amended) The drilling tool as recited in ~~one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,  
wherein  
the vertical height (H) of the rib (14) increases toward the longitudinal axis (L) of the drilling tool.
4. (currently amended) The drilling tool as recited in ~~one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,  
wherein  
the vertical height (H) of the rib (14) decreases toward the longitudinal axis (L).
5. (currently amended) The drilling tool as recited in ~~at least one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,  
wherein  
at least one second free face section (10b) follows the first free face section (10a).

6. (currently amended) The drilling tool as recited in ~~at least one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,  
wherein  
at least one second cutting face section (6b) follows the first cutting face section (6a).

7. (currently amended) The drilling tool as recited in ~~one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1,  
wherein  
an extension (V) of the second free face section (10b) extends in a direction of rotation (d) of the drilling tool (1) through the cutting element (3) below the cutting edge (11).